

Proposed Claim Amendments to claims 90-96 in connection with U.S.S.N. 09/717,450

Claim 90 (Currently Amended): A method for evaluating the potential of a composition to counteract degradation of Type II collagen in joints of a transgenic non-human mammal, which degradation results in a phenotypic change selected from the group consisting of loss of proteoglycan, cleavage of Type II collagen into a TCA degradation product, a change in joint function, joint space narrowing, destruction of cartilage, a change in growth plate morphology, fibrillation and loss of articular cartilage, osteophyte formation, and combinations thereof, which method comprises:

- (a) providing a first and second transgenic non-human mammal of claim 55
- (b) ~~in which a phenotypic change has been produced by activation of activating expression of the metalloproteinase at the same age during adulthood of the transgenic non-human mammals, wherein a phenotypic change selected from the group consisting of loss of proteoglycan, cleavage of Type II collagen into a TCA degradation product, a change in joint function, joint space narrowing, destruction of cartilage, a change in growth plate morphology, fibrillation and loss of articular cartilage, osteophyte formation, and combinations thereof has been produced by activation of the metalloproteinase;~~
explosion
- (b) (c) administering the composition to the first transgenic non-human mammal; and
- (e) (d) comparing the phenotype of the first transgenic non-human mammal to which the composition was administered with the phenotype of the second transgenic non-human mammal in which the composition was not administered,

wherein any less extensive development in the nature or extent of the phenotypic change phenotype in the first transgenic non-human mammal or any increased length of time required for the phenotypic change phenotype to develop in the first transgenic non-human mammal that has been administered the composition relative to the phenotypic change phenotype in the second transgenic non-human mammal, indicates the potential of the composition to counteract the phenotypic change.